



# Gateway

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## President's Message



Dear Friends,

India, Japan and a World still focussed on the pandemic. The Cornwall Summit in the United Kingdom of the Group of Seven that recently ended discussed a host of issues and agreed on a number of initiatives in its final communiqué; but the fact remains

that the “Rich Club” could not get its eyes off the pandemic that continues to ravage the world sparing neither the rich nor the poor in the comity of nations. In the United States the toll has breached 600,000, a number that has caused many to reflect and ponder even if the country is past its worst in terms of infections and deaths. The global figure of about four million deaths is something that leaders of the G 7 could not ignore; and consensus to come up with a billion vaccines to the needy still seems far short to desperate countries that have still not been administered the first jab.

India and Japan have to look at the pandemic in different ways as they face difficult challenges. In a federal system like India the central government has to be focused on the needs of the state that are on varying stages of the pandemic with some of them seeing the virus ebbing and others seeing a spurt in infections and within states it is a different story for different districts and municipalities. While parts of India are apprehensively looking at the Third Wave, it is said that Japan is facing the Fourth Wave but with renewed determination and confidence. The global community is generally awed with the manner in which authorities in Japan have managed to handle the crisis. But now the Japanese government and public have a difficult decision to make: Official Japan wants the Olympic Games to proceed as scheduled, but the people have a different take on the subject. They are not just worried about the 16,000 sportspersons but also of the thousands of coaching and support staff that will come along and without having to undergo the quarantine period.

Now is the time for the Group of Seven to rise above partisan rancor and show resolve in coming to terms with a pandemic that has literally wreaked havoc on not only economies but ways of life. It is much beyond looking at patents and intellectual property rights. It is one of depriving generations of their passions and dreams.

Regards,

**T.P. Imbichammad**

## TOKYO OLYMPICS : July 23 - 08 August 2021



Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee President Seiko Hashimoto applauds, next to the celebration cauldron, on the first day of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic torch relay in Naraha, Fukushima prefecture, northeastern Japan. Seiko Hashimoto said: “We need to remove anxiety and concerns from all the Japanese people and ensure a safe and secure operation of the games”.

Japan has spent as much as \$35 billion into staging the Games, making them the most expensive ever, hard to walk away from. Japanese Prime Minister Suga together with the IOC, has maintained steadfastly that the Games can and will be run without compromising public health.



(Photo courtesy: jw-webmagazine.com)



(Photo courtesy: The BIM)

## New Toyota Land Cruiser to hit showrooms from this summer

To mark the 70th anniversary of the birth of the iconic SUV Land Cruiser, Toyota Motor Corporation plans to roll out a new model for the first time in 14 years. The sixth version of the Land Cruiser will be 200 kgs lighter than the earlier ones and have a lower center of gravity than past models, but will continue with the sport utility vehicle's rugged tradition of handling all types of road conditions. The suspension has also been improved so the tires can continue to grip the road regardless of the treacherous weather conditions. A new function is added to allow the vehicle to automatically select the driving mode based on the road



conditions. The new model will go on sale worldwide from this summer, but the price and fuel mileage are not known yet.

## Mitsubishi UFJ pledges net zero emissions in finance portfolio by 2050

Japan's biggest lender, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) will aim for net zero emissions in its finance portfolio by 2050, responding to pressure to align its business with the targets set in the Paris Agreement on climate change. The bank will also join the United Nations' Net-Zero Banking Alliance and be the first Japanese lender to do so, it said in a statement. In order to lead the way to solutions for climate change, one of the most serious issues facing the world, "we will further expand support for customers efforts towards decarbonization," the statement said. The bank will also aim for carbon neutrality in its own operations by 2030. The lender will provide annual updates on its progress toward the 2050 target. Activist shareholders have turned their attention to Japanese banks and other companies in the last year, submitting resolutions for annual general meetings to push them to align their business with the Paris Agreement.

## Indian IT revenue to be \$194 billion in 2021: NASSCOM

Indian IT spending to increase by 2.3% in 2021 to reach a revenue of \$194 billion, despite a decline in global tech spending, projects industry body, NASSCOM. Despite headwinds in 2020, Indian tech contributed ~8% relative share to the national GDP, with 52% relative share in services exports, and 50% share in total FDI (Based on FDI inflows for the period April to September 2020). Despite the downturn, Indian tech industry continues to be a net hirer with significant focus on digital upskilling. The industry is expected to add over 138,000 net new hires in FY2020-21, taking total employee base to 4.47 million in FY2020-21. Digital talent pool is expected to cross 1.17 million, growing at 32% over last year. Investing in digital continues to rise as an imperative for the industry, with organisations building their capabilities and aligning business models to digital practices – upto 28%-30% of the industry revenues was recorded for digital. The Indian domestic market, driven by hardware led demand continued to show resilience, growing at 3.4% in the year. With an increased focus on innovation, India witnessed more than 115,000 tech patents filed by companies in India in the last 5 years. Enterprises are re-balancing their technology spends to prioritize digitization. The industry saw an overall shift of 10% in outcome-based pricing; offshore witnessed more than 4% shift in 2020 and attrition rate dropped by 50% in H2 2020 compared to H1 2020. The industry witnessed 146 M&A deals in 2020, 90% of which were digitally focused. Companies saw a significant rise of 80% in cloud adoption during H1 FY2021 Vs H2 FY2020. Further, Continental Europe, APAC emerged as one of the strongest growth geographies in FY2021. BFSI & Healthcare were key growth verticals during the year. As we enter the new normal, however, analysts are cautiously optimistic, and technology is expected to drive frontend operations and customer experience. As per NASSCOM's CEO survey, 97% CEOs anticipate a significantly better global economic growth in 2021 as compared to 2020. In terms of hiring, 95% CEOs expect 2021 hiring to be more than what they hired in 2020. Further, 67% CEOs believe the Indian technology industry to grow significantly higher than 2020.

A new attraction based on the popular "Demon Slayer" manga series will open on Sept. 17 for a limited time at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka. The attraction, which will mark the first time the western Japan theme park has recreated the global hit series that was also adapted into an animation, will run until Feb. 13 next year. Visitors will be able to "experience the fluid swordsmanship, and even the breathing, of the hero Tanjiro Kamado and his fellow demon slayers amid fierce battles that unfold before their very eyes," according to the park.

Fans can also look forward to seeing the characters introduce parts of the attraction on the park's official Twitter account from July 1.



Universal Studios Japan, which has only opened on weekdays for the past two months due to the COVID-19 state of emergency, restarted business on weekends and holidays, but visitors remain capped at 5,000 on all days as a measure to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

(Courtesy : The Japan Times)

## G7 Summit 2021

The seven G7 countries - Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the US, represented jointly by the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission, the EU participated in all discussions as a guest. The UK has also invited leaders from Australia, India, South Africa, and South Korea to attend the Leaders' Summit as guest countries. The Summit was held at Cornwall in the United Kingdom between June 11 & 13, 2021. Prime Minister of India Hon'ble Mr. Narendra Modi participated from Delhi, virtually.

India is a "natural ally" to work with the world's richest G7 countries to fight against threats of authoritarianism, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at a special outreach session for guest countries on "Open Societies and Open Economies".

Some key take aways - To build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic by leading the global recovery from the corona virus while strengthening resilience against future pandemics; G7 leaders come together on a global minimum tax and democratic ideals; a unified front against threats by China and Russia.

The New York times reports : The seven leaders described the importance of investigating the origins of the corona virus pandemic in China. Mr. Biden, noting that he has not reached a conclusion on the origin of the outbreak, told reporters such a study would require access from China. Mr. Biden emphasized the need to have an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, President Xi Jinping's overseas lending and investment push, which has now spread across Africa, Latin America and into Europe. Mr. Biden said such a plan would need to prioritize "high standards for climate-friendly, transparent alternatives to the Belt and Road Initiative." It is far from clear how the wealthy democracies will be able to muster a comprehensive response. The plan appeared to stitch together existing projects in the United States, Europe and Japan, along with an encouragement of private financing. The Group of 7 did promise to end by 2022 international funding for coal projects that do not include technology to capture and store carbon dioxide emissions, promised to achieve an "overwhelmingly decarbonized" electricity sector by the end of the decade, and said they would deliver \$2 billion to help nations pivot away from fossil fuels, major steps in what leaders hope will be a global transition to wind, solar and other energy that does not produce planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions. But energy experts said the inability of the G7 nations, which together produce about a quarter of the world's climate pollution, to agree on a specific end date on the use of coal in their home countries weakens the ability of those same nations to lean on China to curb its own coal use. At the same time, leaders also agreed to raise their contributions and meet an overdue pledge of mobilizing \$100 billion a year to help poorer countries cut emissions and cope with the consequences of climate change.

## NASA and ISRO's NISAR space mission launch by January 2023

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has shipped its satellite components to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory for a joint satellite mission known as NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR). This joint mission, which is under development aims to provide earth observation data to help in management of natural resources and hazards. It is also meant to help scientists study the extent and pace of climate change. According to ISRO, NISAR is a collaboration for a dual-frequency S-Band and L-Band Synthetic Aperture Radar for earth observation. On March 4, ISRO Chairman Dr K Sivan virtually flagged off the Indian-made S-Band payload from the Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad. At the NASA facility, this S-Band radar will be integrated with the American L-Band radar, following which it would be sent to India, for further assembly, integration and launch.

"Once ready, NASA would send the payload to India and it will be entirely assembled as a satellite at the UR Rao Space Center in Bengaluru. We have not finalized the launch date, but it is likely to be around end of 2022 or early 2023, on board a GSLV Mark II rocket from Satish Dhawan Space Center" says ISRO Chairman. NASA says that the NISAR mission will use advanced radar imaging that will provide an unprecedented, detailed view of Earth. "The satellite is designed to observe and take measurements of some of the planet's most complex processes. These include ecosystem disturbances, ice-sheet collapse, and natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes and landslides". It also adds that the project data would reveal information about the evolution and state of Earth's crust. It was on September 30, 2014, that NASA and ISRO signed a partnership to collaborate on and launch NISAR. NASA is providing the mission's L-band synthetic aperture radar, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers, a solid-state recorder and payload data subsystem. ISRO is providing the spacecraft bus, the S-band radar, the launch vehicle and associated launch services. NASA adds that NISAR will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface less than a centimeter across.

*(Courtesy: Zee Media)*

## India-Japan Online Business Matching Event by IJCCI & UNIDO ITPO Tokyo



**B2B MEETING** : 05th July to 17th July 2021 / 09.00 am to 05.00 pm (IST)  
**BUSINESS SEMINAR** : 07th July 2021 / 12 Hrs. to 13 Hrs. (IST)



(PRESENTATION BY IJCCI MEMBER COMPANIES)

Use the following link to register FREE for the events :

Japanese : <https://www.unido.or.jp/coming/10677/>

English : <https://www.unido.or.jp/en/coming/8620/>

### Adani Group to Operate Navi Mumbai International Airport

The Maharashtra Government approved M/s Adani Airport Holdings Ltd (AAHL) to develop and operate the upcoming Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) in the adjoining Thane-Raigad region, a greenfield airport being developed as a public-private partnership (PPP) project.

AAHL becomes the biggest private airport operator running several major airports like Mumbai, Navi Mumbai (proposed), Bengaluru, Ahmedabad and Lucknow, besides three more likely in the near future, AAHL now has a majority stake in the new airport, with 26 percent belonging to the Airport Authority of India. Being developed on 1,160 hectares of land, Mumbai International Airport is expected to become operational in 2023-2024. When opened, it will become the country's leading airport for both domestic and international flights.

### Rs 450 crore seaplane services to boost Indian tourism industry

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) of the Government of India in mid-June 2021 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for seaplane services project that would span Delhi, Gujarat, Assam, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, a total of 28 seaplane routes and 14 water aerodromes are already in various stages of development at a cost of Rs 450 crore, according to the Government of India source. It is expected that the MoU between the two ministries would help in expediting the development of new water aerodromes and also operationalisation of new seaplane routes in India and give a big boost to a new kind of tourism service in India. A Co-ordination Committee comprising officials of several Ministries will be set up for timely completion of operationalisation of the seaplane services, according to the government source. The Ministry of Civil Aviation will also provide funds/financial support in respect of water aerodromes awarded under RCS-UDAN scheme and coordinate with Chief Secretaries of all States for the Seaplanes operations.

### India – European Union Joint Naval Exercise

On 18-19 June 2021, the European Union (EU) and India conducted a joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Aden. The exercise involved Indian Navy frigate Trikanth, EU NAVFOR Somalia - Operation Atalanta, including Italian frigate Carabiniere (Atalanta's flagship) and Spanish frigate Navarra, French frigate Surcouf and French amphibious assault helicopter carrier Tonnerre. The exercise was based on the scenario of an anti-piracy operation. It included cross-deck helicopter landings, complex tactical evolutions at sea, live firing, a night-time joint patrol and a naval parade in the high seas off the coast of Somalia. The EU and India are committed to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region, underpinned by respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, democracy, rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, and peaceful resolution of disputes. They reaffirm the primacy of international law, including the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In January 2021, the EU and India launched a dialogue on maritime security and agreed to deepen their dialogue and cooperation in this domain. The Indian Navy has been providing escort to World Food Programme chartered vessels, coordinated by EU NAVFOR Somalia - Operation Atalanta. The Indian Navy has previously participated in the Shared Awareness and Deconfliction (SHADE) conference, co-hosted by Operation Atalanta, whose assets conducted several joint exercises with Indian vessels in the past. The EU and India intend to strengthen their operational cooperation at sea, including joint naval exercises and port calls, and to protect the sea-lanes of communication. They also intend to boost maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific through mutual coordination and exchanges. The EU and India reaffirm their interest to enhance their cooperation in the field of maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.

(Courtesy : EEAS)

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